



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PMs of WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1943.

Hunters who harvested the wild game crop during the 1942-43 hunting season took 255,404,000 pounds of usable meat, according to a report made to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Based on data taken from State Game Departments and other sources, the tabulation reveals that deer alone yielded more than 59,000,000 pounds, with elk 9,000,000, and antelope, moose, bear, mountain sheep and goats totaling 1,650,000 pounds.

Among upland game, wild rabbits amounted to 68,735,000 pounds, squirrels more than 22,000,000, while raccoon, opossum and woodchuck totaled 14,222,000 pounds.

Ducks accounted for 32,500,000 pounds and geese, 3,000,000.

Upland game birds, including quail, pheasants, grouse, partridges, and wild turkeys, totaled 42,243,000 pounds, with pheasants (15,000,000 of them) accounting for 30,377,000 of the total.

Doves, bandtail pigeons, and woodcock added 2,405,000 pounds.

"With the present severe shortage of domestic meats due to the necessity for shipping such large quantities to our armed forces and to our allies, these wild species provide a food resource that is becoming increasingly important," said Albert M. Day, assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, "A deer or an elk or a pheasant or a creel of fresh water fishes taken by a sportsman and used in the home or given to his friends releases an equivalent amount of beef, pork, lamb or poultry that can be consumed by the public or made available for military needs."